

Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army

G8 Briefing and Operations Information



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Essential Summary and Introduction

Numerous CIRCA groups will be converging in Scotland for the G8 actions. So that we can all meet up to plot and play, CIRCA will have an HQ (solar Powered Caravan) based in Edinburgh from 28th June – 3rd July outside Teviot Students Union, Bristo Place, EH1 and at the Hori-Zone rural convergence centre from July 3rd to 9th. (see address in resources section). We cannot arrange accommodation or transport for you. Accommodation is being sorted via dissent who have a 24 hour info space at 10 Albert Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh. EH7 5HN. Tel: 0131 554 2440

There are two major focal points for CIRCA actions that have been proposed:

Operation Brown Nose – to coincide with the Make Poverty History March on July 2nd.

Operation HaHaHa (Helping Authorities House Arrest Half-witted Authoritarian Androids) which will begin during the July 6th global day of action and Blockades.
(<http://clownarmy.org/operations/hahaha.html>)

Communiqués about these operations will be sent out soon. Other actions will be proposed and discussed by clown gaggles during the Clown Councils (see timetable).

To contact us ring: 07910 082234

Email list for CIRCA G8 organising: sign up at
<http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/circag8>
www.clownarmy.org

G8 CAMPAIGN TIMETABLE

Thursday 30 June CLOWN COUNCIL 10-11:30am Caravan outside Teviot Union, Bristo Place, Edinburgh Basic Rebel Clown Training - For all new recruits. EDINBURGH – 12- 6pm Dissent Workshop Space, Teviot Student Union, Bristo Place, Edinburgh E1. <u>You should be able to attend both days.</u> Please book a place by emailing - trainings@gn.apc.org	Friday 1 July CLOWN COUNCIL 10-11:30am Caravan outside Teviot Union, Bristo Place, Edinburgh Basic Rebel Clown Training, cont'd. - For all new recruits. EDINBURGH – 12- 6pm Dissent Workshop Space, Teviot Student Union, Bristo Place, Edinburgh E1.
Saturday 2 July CLOWN COUNCIL 9am Pre-Make Poverty History Rally – Edinburgh - CIRCA Gathering to coordinate ourselves, share make up, play and prepare for the day. In Teviot Union, Bristo Place. Operation Brown Nose – during MPH march	Sunday 3 July CLOWN COUNCIL 10-11:30am Caravan outside Teviot Union, Crickton St, Edinburgh

Monday 4 July Rebel Clown Taster - for those who aren't sure a life in CIRCA is for them. In the People and Planet part of the Rural Convergence Centre. Monday 9.30 - 11.30am. Brush Up Training 10am – 1pm At the HORI - ZONE Rural Convergence Centre - for people who have done taster workshops and need to brush up on their socking, fishing and drilling. CLOWN COUNCIL 5pm Rural Convergence Site, Stirling	Tuesday 5 July Brush Up Training 10 am – 1pm At the HORI - ZONE Rural Convergence Centre - for people who have done taster workshops and need to brush up on their socking, fishing and drilling. CLOWN COUNCIL 5pm Rural Convergence Site, Stirling
Wed 6 July CLOWN COUNCIL 5pm Rural Convergence Site, Stirling Operation HaHaHa begins as part of global day of action and Blockades	Thursday 7 July CLOWN COUNCIL 5pm Rural Convergence Site, Stirling
Friday 8 July CLOWN COUNCIL 5pm Rural Convergence Site, Stirling	Saturday 9 July CLOWN COUNCIL 12 noon: this is to organize support for any arrested clowns and any needed follow up if needed

Below are details of how the process will work for planning actions and a timetable of meetings, trainings and operations.

CIRCA: What is it?

The Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA) is developing new methods of radical activism that bring together the ancient practice of clowning and the more recent practice of non-violent direct action (NVDA). CIRCA is not just a street tactic but a deeper process that liberates people with weapons of love and laughter.

Following Basic Rebel Clowning Training (BRCT), during which recruits begin the process of finding/uncovering their “clown” and learning NVDA skills, clownbattants take part in various forms of action against war and capitalism. Some recent actions have included occupying and closing down army recruitment centres and welcoming George Bush to Buckingham Palace with a cardboard cannon firing pink pretzels. We see innovative forms of action as key for building dynamic social movements, but realise that the psyche is as important a site for struggle as the street. CIRCA believes that a self destructive tendency within many social movements is forgetting the inner work of personal liberation and transformation. This is an area our rebel clown trainings works on deeply, while also providing creative tools to confuse and befuddle authority.

How do I get involved with CIRCA at the G8?

Clown Gaggles

Every one in CIRCA is asked to form or join a Clown Gagger (a group of clowns which you can name Battalion/ Contingent / Brigade / Division / Regiment or any other suitably stupid title). Gaggles can be based around your locality, a pre-existing affinity group or group of friends, or around a common interest or identity (like doing a similar style of clowning, a specific clown action or having a focus like “no borders”). A suggested size is between 5-20

clowns. These Clown Gaggles will function in a similar way to affinity groups, and will form the basic planning and decisionmaking bodies for CIRCA operations. Several Clown Gaggles can work together in a Clown Cluster.



Gaggles are the best way to provide emotional and physical support during and after actions, make people on actions feel less isolated and part of a powerful collective. They can act autonomously, initiate proposals and actions (through the Clown Councils – which will be occurring regularly during the G8 – see Schedule below) that others can join and join or support other groups actions. Clown Gaggles should plan to be self reliant including providing for their own logistics, needs and support before, during and after actions. Each group should try to have people within them who take responsibility for: Communications (e.g own a mobile phone), Scouting (maps, etc), and Legal Support (have a list of every ones personal information, friends and family contact information and keep track of anyone arrested, etc) and First Aid (bring a first aid kit and ideally have some one in your gaggle with some basic first aid experience/training). Gaggles should arrange how they will stay in touch (mobile phone list) and when and where they will meet up. Gaggles should also consider a buddy system during actions (working in a pair that stay together and watch out for each other during the action), so no one gets isolated.

Clown Gaggles should choose one or more people that they are comfortable with to be spokespeople to participate in the Clown Councils where all the clowns will coordinate, and share information. This reduces the need for everyone to sit through meetings and allows other clowns to participate in action preparations, other trainings and events. Spokespeople are responsible to bring their gaggles ideas, proposals, concerns and opinions to the clown council and to report back info, decisions etc to their group.

Here's a suggestion of what to discuss in your gaggle to prepare for Clown Councils:

- Report back from the last Clown Council: decisions, proposals, invitations, info/updates, needs.
- What does our group want to do today/tomorrow? What is our opinion of the proposals? Do we want to join other gaggles invitations?
- Do we have any invitations (an invitation is an action we are doing that we want to invite other gaggles to) or proposals (proposals involve the whole of CIRCA) Can we circulate them soon to other groups—through written copies, verbally or over the listserve?
- Who will our spokes people be for the next council meeting?

I haven't got a Gaggle to Join?

If you are a clown that has already trained but have not formed or joined a gaggle, you can come to one of the Clown Councils and plug into appropriate groups or you might find some friendly clowns to join up with by participating in the brush up trainings that will be held during the G8.

I've never done Basic Rebel Clown Training?

Like all armies recruits should have participated in a training before joining up. We are doing a series of trainings during the G8 if you are new to CIRCA you should sign up to the training on 30th/1st July. If you have already trained you will be very welcome to the Brush up trainings on 4th/5th July at Horizone.

How do you organise a bunch of Clowns?

Clown Councils

CIRCA works horizontally, we have no leaders, no centralised command – everyone is an officer, a general and a private. During the G8 we will be making CIRCA wide decisions using a system of autonomous Clown Gaggles coordinating via a series of Spokes Councils.

This form of direct council democracy has been used by diverse direct action movements throughout history – from the anarchist federations of the Spanish Civil War to the shut down of the WTO in Seattle, from the Argentine self-managed factories and to the recent Bolivian uprisings.

Each Gaggle will send spokes people to the Clown Council, members of the gaggle can accompany their spoke to the councils and are encouraged to sit behind them so that they can communicate directly with their spokes person during the meeting.

If your Gaggle has a proposal that you want others to get involved with, write it up, send it out to the circaG8 listserve and make copies to pass out during the spokes council (the more in advance

you do this the more time there will be for gaggles to discuss the proposal fully.)

Decisions that affect all CIRCA gaggles will be made by consensus during the Clown Council. In the unlikely result of failing to reach consensus, we will revert to a three quarters majority.

A spokes person may stand aside from a decision if their gaggle chooses not to participate in it. A block (affecting the whole of CIRCA) should only be used if a decision is seen to violate CIRCA's basic principles (such as a radical systemic critique and non-violence).

CIRCA G8 Listserve

A listserve has been set up for CIRCA clowns and clown gaggles. It is intended to be used by and for CIRCA gaggles and clowns for announcements, updates, proposals from and key information related to G8 CIRCA activities. Please respect our time and inboxes and don't use it for general info and announcements or discussion. Sign up at <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/circag8>

What do rebel clowns wear?

Kit/Uniform

There is no regulation CIRCA uniform. However experience has shown that a large block of clowns dressed in similar uniforms can be very powerful (which is why the police and army do it). There is safety in mild anonymity, However each clown has his/her/its own unique uniform, based on a basic theme, that your clown chooses. The basic theme that has developed is Military /Camo/Khaki gear from Army surplus store (see resources for suppliers) subverted and demilitarised with additions eg. Hearts, stars, bright pink/green fun fur anything that your clown desires. Clown costume is not a disguise, something to hide behind, but a way of accessing the clown inside.



Although some clowns like big shoes we don't recommend these during actions – hard to run with and uncomfortable. We suggest you find reasonably comfortable shoes for walking / marching/playing over long distances.

Making up

Make up is expensive so we suggest you share it among your Clown Gaggles. Cheap makeup tends to be what it says on the tin and will either look crap or fall off your face within a short period. (Kryolan or Grimas are good makes) You can use any colour – but think simple, bold shapes that emphasize your facial characteristics.

There is oil or water based theatrical make up, beware that water based runs in the rain and with sweat! Other possible additions are noses (although not at all obligatory in CIRCA) you can also sport wigs and false facial hair.



Things to stuff your pockets with



In order to mock the stop and search terrorist laws, which are regularly used to intimidate protestors, CIRCA clownbattants fill their pockets to the brim (which often makes CIRCA members seem more portly than they actually are!) with stupid things – strings of sausages, underwear, rubber ducks, pink furry stuffed pigs, sex toys, miniature garden gnomes, old bones, small tanks, rubber ducks, plungers and more, which all have to be laid out on the street and documented by the police during searches. Dozens of police officers searching an army of clowns is a weird enough sight, but when members of the public see all the objects being taken out the absurdity of the situation overflows.

RESOURCES and details of Hori-Zone – rural convergence centre.

STIRLING CONVERGENCE 'HORI-ZONE'. THE RURAL CONVERGENCE SPACE

Borrowmeadow Farm, FK7 7SQ

The convergence space is less than one mile east of the city centre on the banks of the River Forth near Stirling Albion football club at Forth Bank Stadium just off the A91 Stirling. It was known as Burrough Meadow in loop of river Forth. See map at www.g8convergence2005.org

Once you are in Stirling simply follow the signs to the Forth Bank Stadium, and you will soon see signs to HORI-ZONE.

There will be frequent pick-ups in the convergence space minibuses from the Stirling train and bus station. Limited shuttles will also run from Edinburgh and Glasgow. There is some car parking next to the site, and only limited on site parking. The best way to get there is by bus or train.

For more information and to register:

www.g8convergence2005.org

e-mail: info@g8convergence2005.org

Costume

GLASGOW

Army Surplus Store

Clearwater Work & Leisure
www.cafs.co.uk
1016 Argyle Street West
G3 8LX
tel: 0141 248 8100

Makeup Store

Arty Party
73 St George's Road
Charing Cross
G3 6JA

tel: 0141 331 0707
fax: 0141 331 0890
email: info@artyparty.com

EDINBURGH

Army Surplus Stores

Leith Army Stores
www.leitharmystores.com
9-10 Brunswick Place
EH7 SHW
tel: 0131 556 2337

Newington Army Stores
10 Clerk Street, Newington
EH8 9HX
tel: 0131 667 8963

Makeup Store

Costume HAHA
88 Grassmarket
EH1 2JR
tel: 0131 225 3388



MISCHIEF PRANKS HORSEPLAY

